



Redwood Region Economic Development Commission
Prosperity Center 520 E Street, Eureka, California 95501
Phone 707.445.9651 Fax 707.445.9652 www.rredc.com

December 4, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: OPPOSITION TO "RESTORING INTERNET FREEDOM" ORDER

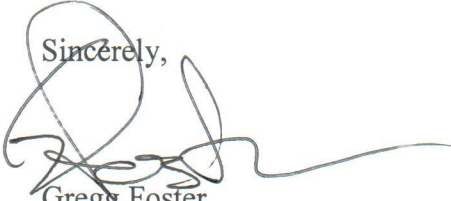
Dear Chairman Pai:

The Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC) is a collaboration of nineteen Humboldt County, California cities and district governments dedicated to expanding economic opportunity in our community. Our mission is to create opportunity and to support the growth of local business. We do this by addressing issues of regional significance, making loans, and offering technical assistance to business owners.

At their meeting on November 27, 2017, the RREDC Board of Directors discussed the proposed elimination of "net neutrality" rules through the draft "Restoring Internet Freedom" order. Broadband telecommunications are critical to the economic and community health of rural regions like ours. As such, we believe that broadband should be considered an essential utility. The repeal of existing rules could have a chilling effect on small company innovation as large telecommunications companies move to protect their interests. Further, we fear that smaller communities will be neglected, as the larger telecommunications companies focus their investment and innovation to larger markets. A lack of competition and the protection provided by the existing rules could result in increased costs and decreased quality of service in rural communities.

Therefore, the Board of Directors respectfully request that the Commission reject the proposed order and continue in its role of ensuring net neutrality for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,



Gregg Foster
Executive Director



Cities Arcata • Blue Lake • Eureka • Ferndale • Fortuna • Rio Dell • Trinidad
Community Services Districts Humboldt • Manila • McKinleyville • Orick • Orleans • Redway • Willow Creek
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District • Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
County of Humboldt • Hoopa Valley Tribe • Redwoods Community College District